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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,342	10/22/2001	Guoqiang Wang	ENP-035	3219

7590

11/25/2002

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, REBECCA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/007,342

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Rebecca L Anderson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 21 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 17-20 are withdrawn as being for non-elected subject matter, and claims 1-16, 21 and 22 are objected.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-16 and 21-22 and the election of the species EP 001162 in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that restriction is not mandatory and that there is not a serious burden. This is not found persuasive because 35 U.S.C. 121 states that restriction between two or more independent and distinct inventions claimed in one application may be required, and the examiner has properly restricted the independent inventions. In regards to a burdensome search, the inventions are independent and distinct because there is no patentable co-action between the groups and a reference anticipating one member will not render another obvious. Each group is directed to art recognized divergent subject matter, which require different searching strategies for each group. Moreover, the examiner must perform a commercial database search on the subject matter of each group in addition to a paper search, which is quite burdensome to the examiner.

An explanation of the statement, "Upon election of a single disclosed species, a generic concept inclusive of the elected species will be identified by the Examiner for examination along with the elected species," and a response to applicant's references to MPEP 803.02 and lack of unity is that the restriction requirement is made under 35 U.S.C. 121, which gives the Commissioner (Director) the authority to limit the

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examination of an application where two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed to only one invention. The examiner has indicated that more than one independent and distinct invention is claimed in this application and has restricted (limited) claimed subject matter accordingly. Thus the requirement to restrict the claims in this application is predicated on the fact that the claimed subject matter involves more than one independent and distinct invention. Nowhere do applicants argue to the contrary. Nowhere do applicants point out and give reasons why the claims do not involve independent or distinct subject matter. In regards to the reference to the lack of unity standard, this standard does not address the premise of the restriction requirement. Notwithstanding that lack of unity is not the basis for this restriction requirement, a lack of unity standard requires that the claims contain a special technical feature that defines a contribution over the art. Here the claims contain a $\text{N}-\underset{\text{H}}{\text{C}}-\underset{\text{OH}}{\text{C}}$, which does not define a contribution over the art. So, here we have claims which involve more than one independent or distinct inventions. Under 35 U.S.C. 121, the claims may be restricted and the examination limited to a restricted invention. There is no argument or evidence to the contrary. Accordingly, restriction as has been presented in this application is proper.

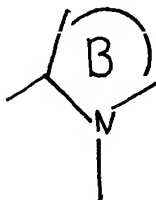
The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

With the identification of the above noted species, the examiner, as indicated in the restriction requirement of Paper No. 3, will identify a generic concept, inclusive of said species, for examination.

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The generic concept is that of the compound as found in claim 1 wherein:

R_1 , R_2 , **A** and **E** are as found in claim 1,



is thiazolidine and

D is SO_2 .

The remaining subject matter of claims 1-16, 21 and 22 and the subject matter of claims 17-20 stands withdrawn, 37 CFR 1.142 (b), as being for non-elected inventions. The withdrawn subject matter of the claims is properly restricted as said subject matter differs materially in structure and element from the elected subject matter so as to be patentably distinct, i.e. a reference which anticipated but the elected subject matter would not even render obvious the non-elected subject matter. Additionally, the fields of search are not co-extensive.

Accordingly, the claims are drawn to more than a single invention and restriction as has been required is proper, 37 CFR 1.142 (a). It is noted, however, that if the product claims of invention I are subsequently found allowable (i.e. presented drawn solely to the elected subject matter as indicated supra), the withdrawn method claim, which depends from or otherwise includes all the limitations of the allowable product claims will be rejoined (i.e. group II, claims 17-20).

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Claim Objections

Claims 1-16, 21 and 22 are objected to as containing non-elected subject matter.

The claims presented drawn solely to the elected subject matter as indicated supra, would appear allowable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Rebecca L. Anderson whose telephone number is (703) 605-1157. Mrs. Anderson can normally be reached Monday through Friday 7:00AM to 3:30PM.

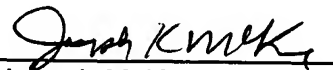
If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph McKane, can be reached at (703) 308-4537.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 308-1235 and (703) 308-0196.

A facsimile center has been established. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:45AM to 4:45PM. The telecopier numbers for accessing the facsimile machine are (703) 308-4242, (703) 305-3592, and (703) 305-3014.



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